



Bike Edina Task Force: News & Meeting Outcomes

July 12, 2012

Purpose: The Bike Edina Task Force (BETF) meets to serve citizens and partner with City staff and elected officials to promote bicycle improvements in Edina for education, encouragement, infrastructure, enforcement, and ongoing assessment. We support implementation of the approved [City of Edina Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan](#) that serves all levels of bicyclists, connects key destinations including safe routes to schools, and integrates with the Twin Cities' regional bike network. Our **vision** is a progressive bicycle-friendly community where citizens can integrate cycling into their daily lives.

Time & Location: BETF monthly on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room at Edina City Hall. For questions contact Peter Kelley, Chair. Guests are welcome.

Distribution: BETF, guests, City Manager, City Engineer, Edina Police BETF Liaison Sgt. Timothy Olson, SHIP contact Robyn Wiesman, and Mayor & City Council. Also Dianne Plunkett Latham to post for the Edina Energy and Environment Commission and Ned Nelson of the Hennepin County Bicycle Advisory Committee

- **Present:** Peter Kelley , Jennifer Janovy, Larry Olson, Brad Schaeppi, Don Eyberg, Rob Erickson,
- **Absent:** Ellen Jones, Kirk Johnson, Marty Mathis, Alex Johnson, Sally Dunn , Alice Hulbert, Carl Gulbranson, Tom Randall, Carl Follstad
- **Guests:** Dan Atkins, Lori Richman, Nathan Richman
- **Recorded by:** Larry Olson

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1. Sidewalks –

Continuing discussion around our position in regards to bicycle riding on sidewalks in Edina. Jennifer distributed an updated proposal to change the ordinance against riding on sidewalks in Edina. The group does not want to encourage biking on sidewalks, recognizing that streets are often safer places to ride, but is concerned that the current law

does not meet the needs of Edina residents for a number of reasons. Edina is different from our neighboring cities in regard to riding on sidewalks. Many residents do not know about the current law against riding on sidewalks and it isn't generally enforced. Parents with young children often do not feel comfortable with the children riding on the street. Access to certain bike facilities such as locking racks is difficult without biking on a sidewalk.

Consensus among members in attendance is that BETF take a position in favor of modifying the current law to allow bicycles on city sidewalks.

2. Status of BETF –

Peter will send out some options on our organization's status for discussion at next months meeting. Possibilities include, but aren't limited to, remaining as we are (independent of the city) or becoming a subcommittee of the Edina Transportation Committee. It was agree that issue needs to be resolved soon so the group can move on to more important issues.

3. BETF Database

Peter is putting together a spreadsheet database of people interested in updates about bicycling related issues in the city. It will contain Name and e-mail adress. Please provide names and e-mails of people you know who like to be added to the list to Peter.

4. Blog –

Peter is always looking for blog articles. Please submit your articles, photos, interesting items, etc.

5. Project Updates

a. Nine Mile Creek Trail –

Jennifer reported that the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) has agreed to fund \$5.5 million for eastern section of the Nine Mile Creek Trail (France Ave to Tracy). This is a reversal of an earlier announcement that the project would not be receiving funding. There is currently no timeline for construction.

b. Bike racks –

Brad provided an update from Brian Olson with Edina Public Works. The bike rack order is still in process. The racks should be ordered shortly and hopefully installed in early August.

c. Edina Transportation Commission (ETC) Update –

Jennifer provided an update on the France Ave pedestrian project. The initial plan included bike lanes and sidewalks on the east side of the road, but came in substantially over budget. The ETC rejected that plan. Due to right-of-way costs

the inclusion of bike lanes in the project are probably not feasible at this time. The project will, however, significantly improve at grade crossings along the corridor.

Jennifer mentioned St Louis Park is looking to make improvements to the trail crossing at Beltline Blvd. They would like input from Edina. Jennifer will forward contact information when she received it.